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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,253	02/13/2002	Masahiro Sugihara	2001-1733A	4419
513	7590	01/04/2005	EXAMINER	
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P. 2033 K STREET N. W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021			EDWARDS, LAURA ESTELLE	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1734		

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/073,253	SUGIHARA ET AL.	
	Examiner Laura Edwards	Art Unit 1734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 9-21 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 9-21 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3.) Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>082604</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Drawings

The drawing filed on 7/15/04 was received and approved by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rantanen (US 5,567,479).

Rantanen teaches a coating apparatus comprising a first roll (2) that contacts with base paper traveling continuously, directly or through a second roll; a cylindrical rod (11) with an outer peripheral surface which is disposed parallel to said first roll and also engages with said first roll and rotates in a predetermined direction; a coating layer, formed on the outer peripheral surface of said rod, which has the property of releasing a coating liquid (see col. 3, lines 12-17); and coating-liquid supply means (16) for supplying said coating liquid to a nip surface portion between said first roll and said rod in said predetermined direction; wherein said coating liquid supplied from said coating-liquid supply means forms a film of coating liquid on the outer peripheral surface of said first roll, and the thickness of said coating-liquid film is adjusted at said nip surface portion, the thickness-adjusted film is transferred from said first roll onto a surface of said base paper directly or indirectly through said second roll.

The indicated allowability of claims 9-20 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rantanen (US 5,567,479) in view of Nalband (US 3,942,230).

Rantanen teaches a coating apparatus comprising a first roll (2) for contacting with continuously traveling base paper either directly or through a second roll; a cylindrical rod (11) having an uneven outer peripheral surface and a coating layer formed on said uneven outer peripheral surface of said rod, said coating layer having the property of releasing a coating liquid (see col. 3, lines 12-17), and said rod being disposed parallel to said first roll, engaging with said

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first roll and rotatable; and a coating-liquid supply (16) supplying the coating liquid to a nip surface portion between said first roll and said rod on which said coating layer is formed; wherein the coating liquid can be supplied from the coating-liquid supply to form a film of coating liquid on an outer peripheral surface of said first roll, the thickness of the film of coating liquid can be adjusted at the nip surface portion, and the film of coating liquid having its thickness adjusted can be transferred from said first roll onto a surface of the base paper either directly or through the second roll. Rantanen is silent concerning the coating layer being formed on the periphery of the rod via blasting then applying the release coating layer thereon. However, it was known in the art, at the time the invention was made, to construct an abrasion resistant anti-stick coating rod or roller by blasting a fine uneven layer on the surface of the rod or roller thereby facilitating bonding of the release coating thereto as evidenced by Nalband (see col. 1, lines 30-50 and col. 2, lines 7-10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to construct the abrasion resistant anti-stick coating rod or roller of Rantanen via providing the core with an uneven outer peripheral surface through blasting as taught by Nalband et al in order to facilitate bonding of the release coating (i.e., TEFLON) to the core.

With respect to claim 12, Rantanen does not teach the rod including a plating layer having the release property. However, it was known in the art at the time the invention was made, to provide on top of a core roll, a plating layer roughened through blasting having the release coating layer thereon as evidenced by Nalband (see col. 2, lines 7-13). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to construct the Rantanen rod via providing a plating layer on the surface of the rod then blasting an uneven outer peripheral surface on said

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layer for receipt of the release coating as taught by Nalband as an alternative method of manufacturing the rod resulting in better bonding of the coating layer.

With respect to claim 15, Rantanen does not teach the rod including a ceramic material or plating layer melted and jetted thereon with a release coating layer on the ceramic layer. However, it was known in the art at the time the invention was made, to provide on top of a core roll, a thermally sprayed ceramic based plating layer on the rod core which has been roughened through blasting having the release coating layer on the ceramic plating layer as evidenced by Nalband (see col. 1, lines 30-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to construct the Rantanen rod via providing a thermally sprayed ceramic plating layer on the surface of the rod then blasting an uneven outer peripheral surface on said plating layer for receipt of the release coating as taught by Nalband an alternative method of manufacturing the rod resulting in better bonding of the coating layer.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rantanen (US 5,567,479) and Nalband (US 3,942,230) as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Alheid et al (US 4,245,582).

The teachings of Rantanen and Nalband have been mentioned above but neither teach or suggest a lubricating rod holder arrangement including a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and an expandable tube or hose in the recess. However, it was known in the art, at the time the invention was made to provide in a rod holder arrangement, a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and expandable tube therein in order to facilitate a desired sealing engagement of the rod with respect to rod holder while maintaining a clean rod during a

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coating process as evidenced by Alheid et al (see col. 3, lines 37-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rod holder arrangement as taught by Alheid et al about the rod in the apparatus defined by the combination above in order to maintain a sealed lubricating/cleaning rod.

Claims 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rantanen (US 5,567,479) in view of Nalband (US 3,942,230) and Alheid et al (US 4,245,582).

Rantanen teaches a coating apparatus comprising a first roll (2) for contacting with continuously traveling base paper either directly or through a second roll; a cylindrical rod (11) having an uneven outer peripheral surface and a coating layer formed on said uneven outer peripheral surface of said rod, said coating layer having the property of releasing a coating liquid (see col. 3, lines 12-17), and said rod being disposed parallel to said first roll, engaging with said first roll and rotatable; and a coating-liquid supply (16) supplying the coating liquid to a nip surface portion between said first roll and said rod on which said coating layer is formed; wherein the coating liquid can be supplied from the coating-liquid supply to form a film of coating liquid on an outer peripheral surface of said first roll, the thickness of the film of coating liquid can be adjusted at the nip surface portion, and the film of coating liquid having its thickness adjusted can be transferred from said first roll onto a surface of the base paper either directly or through the second roll. Rantanen is silent concerning the coating layer being formed on the periphery of the rod via blasting having the release coating layer applied thereon or a lubricating rod holder arrangement including a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and an expandable tube or hose in the recess. However, it was known in the art, at the time the

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invention was made, to construct an abrasion resistant anti-stick coating rod or roller by blasting a fine uneven layer on the surface of the rod or roller thereby facilitating bonding of the release coating thereto as evidenced by Nalband (see col. 1, lines 30-50 and col. 2, lines 7-10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to construct the abrasion resistant anti-stick coating rod or roller of Rantanen via providing the core with an uneven outer peripheral surface through blasting as taught by Nalband et al in order to facilitate bonding of the release coating (i.e., TEFLON) to the core. Also, it was known in the art at the time the invention was made to provide in a rod holder arrangement, a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and expandable tube therein in order to facilitate a desired sealing engagement of the rod with respect to rod holder while maintaining a clean rod during a coating process as evidenced by Alheid et al (see col. 3, lines 37-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rod holder arrangement as taught by Alheid et al about the rod in the apparatus defined by the combination above in order to maintain a sealed lubricating/cleaning rod.

With respect to claim 20, Rantanen teaches a coating apparatus comprising a first roll (2) for contacting with continuously traveling base paper either directly or through a second roll; a cylindrical rod (11) having an uneven outer peripheral surface and a coating layer formed on said uneven outer peripheral surface of said rod, said coating layer having the property of releasing a coating liquid (see col. 3, lines 12-17), and said rod being disposed parallel to said first roll, engaging with said first roll and rotatable; and a coating-liquid supply (16) supplying the coating liquid to a nip surface portion between said first roll and said rod on which said coating layer is formed; wherein the coating liquid can be supplied from the coating-liquid supply to form a film of coating liquid on an outer peripheral surface of said first roll, the

thickness of the film of coating liquid can be adjusted at the nip surface portion, and the film of coating liquid having its thickness adjusted can be transferred from said first roll onto a surface of the base paper either directly or through the second roll. Rantanen is silent concerning the coating layer being formed on the rod via a ceramic material or plating layer melted and jetted thereon with a release coating layer on the ceramic layer and a lubricating rod holder arrangement including a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and an expandable tube or hose in the recess. However, it was known in the art at the time the invention was made, to provide on top of a core roll, a thermally sprayed ceramic based plating layer on the rod core which has been roughened through blasting having the release coating layer on the ceramic plating layer as evidenced by Nalband (see col. 1, lines 30-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to construct the Rantanen rod via providing a thermally sprayed ceramic plating layer on the surface of the rod then blasting an uneven outer peripheral surface on said plating layer for receipt of the release coating as an alternative method of manufacturing the rod resulting in better bonding of the coating layer. Also, it was known in the art, at the time the invention was made to provide in a rod holder arrangement, a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and expandable tube therein in order to facilitate a desired sealing engagement of the rod with respect to rod holder while maintaining a clean rod during a coating process as evidenced by Alheid et al (see col. 3, lines 37-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rod holder arrangement as taught by Alheid et al about the rod in the apparatus defined by the combination above in order to maintain a sealed lubricating/cleaning rod.

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Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rantanen (US 5,567,479) and Nalband (US 3,942,230) as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Alheid et al (US 4,245,582).

The teachings of Rantanen and Nalband have been mentioned above but neither teach or suggest a lubricating rod holder arrangement including a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and an expandable tube or hose in the recess. However, it was known in the art, at the time the invention was made to provide in a rod holder arrangement, a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and expandable tube therein in order to facilitate a desired sealing engagement of the rod with respect to rod holder while maintaining a clean rod during a coating process as evidenced by Alheid et al (see col. 3, lines 37-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rod holder arrangement as taught by Alheid et al about the rod in the apparatus defined by the combination above in order to maintain a sealed lubricating/cleaning rod.

Claims 9-12 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rantanen (US 5,567,479) in view of Butters et al (US 5,997,456).

Rantanen teaches a coating apparatus comprising a first roll (2) for contacting with continuously traveling base paper either directly or through a second roll; a cylindrical rod (11) having an uneven outer peripheral surface and a coating layer formed on said uneven outer peripheral surface of said rod, said coating layer having the property of releasing a coating liquid (see col. 3, lines 12-17), and said rod being disposed parallel to said first roll, engaging with said first roll and rotatable; and a coating-liquid supply (16) supplying the coating liquid to a nip

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surface portion between said first roll and said rod on which said coating layer is formed; wherein the coating liquid can be supplied from the coating-liquid supply to form a film of coating liquid on an outer peripheral surface of said first roll, the thickness of the film of coating liquid can be adjusted at the nip surface portion, and the film of coating liquid having its thickness adjusted can be transferred from said first roll onto a surface of the base paper either directly or through the second roll. Rantanen is silent concerning the coating layer being formed on the periphery of the rod via blasting then applying the release coating layer thereon. However, it was known in the art, at the time the invention was made, to construct an abrasion resistant anti-stick coating rod or roller by blasting a fine uneven layer on the surface of the rod or roller thereby facilitating bonding of the release coating thereto as evidenced by Butters et al (see col. 3, lines 2-35 and Examples 1-4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to construct the abrasion resistant anti-stick coating rod or roller of Rantanen via providing the core with an uneven outer peripheral surface through blasting as taught by Butters et al in order to facilitate bonding of the release coating (i.e., TEFLON) to the core.

With respect to claim 10, even though Rantanen is silent concerning the release coating being silicon resin. However, it was known in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide a silicon based resin material on a rod or roller as an excellent wear resistant release coating material as evidenced by Butters et al (see col. 1, lines 5-7 and lines 35-40; col. 3, lines 17-24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a silicon resin based release coating as taught by Butters et al as the release coating on the Rantanen rod or roller in place of the TEFLON as an alternative release coating having excellent wear resistance.

With respect to claim 11, Rantanen recognizes (see col. 3, lines 15-17) the release coating being TEFLO, a fluorine containing resin.

With respect to claim 12, Rantanen does not teach the rod including a plating layer having the release property. However, it was known in the art at the time the invention was made, to provide on top of a core roll, a ceramic based plating layer roughened through blasting having the release coating layer thereon as evidenced by Butters et al (see col. 3, lines 6-35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to construct the Rantanen rod via providing a ceramic plating layer on the surface of the rod then blasting an uneven outer peripheral surface on said plating layer for receipt of the release coating as taught by Butters et al as an alternative method of manufacturing the rod resulting in better bonding of the coating layer.

With respect to claim 15, Rantanen does not teach the rod including a ceramic material or plating layer melted and jetted thereon with a release coating layer on the ceramic layer. However, it was known in the art at the time the invention was made, to provide on top of a core roll, a thermally sprayed ceramic based plating layer on the rod core which has been roughened through blasting having the release coating layer on the ceramic plating layer as evidenced by Butters et al (see col. 3, lines 6-35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to construct the Rantanen rod via providing a thermally sprayed ceramic plating layer on the surface of the rod then blasting an uneven outer peripheral surface on said plating layer for receipt of the release coating as taught by Butters et al as an alternative method of manufacturing the rod resulting in better bonding of the coating layer.

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Claim 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rantanen (US 5,567,479) and Butters et al (US 5,997,456) as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Alheid et al (US 4,245,582).

The teachings of Rantanen and Butters et al have been mentioned above but neither teach or suggest a lubricating rod holder arrangement including a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and an expandable tube or hose in the recess. However, it was known in the art, at the time the invention was made to provide in a rod holder arrangement, a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and expandable tube therein in order to facilitate a desired sealing engagement of the rod with respect to rod holder while maintaining a clean rod during a coating process as evidenced by Alheid et al (see col. 3, lines 37-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rod holder arrangement as taught by Alheid et al about the rod in the apparatus defined by the combination above in order to maintain a sealed lubricating/cleaning rod.

Claims 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rantanen (US 5,567,479) and Butters et al (US 5,997,456) and Alheid et al (US 4,245,582).

Rantanen teaches a coating apparatus comprising a first roll (2) for contacting with continuously traveling base paper either directly or through a second roll; a cylindrical rod (11) having an uneven outer peripheral surface and a coating layer formed on said uneven outer peripheral surface of said rod, said coating layer having the property of releasing a coating liquid (see col. 3, lines 12-17), and said rod being disposed parallel to said first roll, engaging with said first roll and rotatable; and a coating-liquid supply (16) supplying the coating liquid to a nip

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surface portion between said first roll and said rod on which said coating layer is formed; wherein the coating liquid can be supplied from the coating-liquid supply to form a film of coating liquid on an outer peripheral surface of said first roll, the thickness of the film of coating liquid can be adjusted at the nip surface portion, and the film of coating liquid having its thickness adjusted can be transferred from said first roll onto a surface of the base paper either directly or through the second roll. Rantanen is silent concerning the coating layer being formed on the periphery of the rod via blasting having the release coating layer applied thereon and a lubricating rod holder arrangement including a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and an expandable tube or hose in the recess. However, it was known in the art, at the time the invention was made, to construct an abrasion resistant anti-stick coating rod or roller by blasting a fine uneven layer on the surface of the rod or roller thereby facilitating bonding of the release coating thereto as evidenced by Butters et al (see col. 3, lines 2-35 and Examples 1-4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to construct the abrasion resistant anti-stick coating rod or roller of Rantanen via providing the core with an uneven outer peripheral surface through blasting as taught by Butters et al in order to facilitate bonding of the release coating (i.e., TEFLON) to the core. Also, it was known in the art at the time the invention was made to provide in a rod holder arrangement, a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and expandable tube therein in order to facilitate a desired sealing engagement of the rod with respect to rod holder while maintaining a clean rod during a coating process as evidenced by Alheid et al (see col. 3, lines 37-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rod holder arrangement as taught by Alheid et al about the rod in the apparatus defined by the combination above in order to maintain a sealed lubricating/cleaning rod.

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With respect to claim 20, Rantanen teaches a coating apparatus comprising a first roll (2) for contacting with continuously traveling base paper either directly or through a second roll; a cylindrical rod (11) having an uneven outer peripheral surface and a coating layer formed on said uneven outer peripheral surface of said rod, said coating layer having the property of releasing a coating liquid (see col. 3, lines 12-17), and said rod being disposed parallel to said first roll, engaging with said first roll and rotatable; and a coating-liquid supply (16) supplying the coating liquid to a nip surface portion between said first roll and said rod on which said coating layer is formed; wherein the coating liquid can be supplied from the coating-liquid supply to form a film of coating liquid on an outer peripheral surface of said first roll, the thickness of the film of coating liquid can be adjusted at the nip surface portion, and the film of coating liquid having its thickness adjusted can be transferred from said first roll onto a surface of the base paper either directly or through the second roll. Rantanen is silent concerning the coating layer being formed on the rod via a ceramic material or plating layer melted and jetted thereon with a release coating layer on the ceramic layer and a lubricating rod holder arrangement including a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and an expandable tube or hose in the recess. However, it was known in the art at the time the invention was made, to provide on top of a core roll, a thermally sprayed ceramic based plating layer on the rod core which has been roughened through blasting having the release coating layer on the ceramic plating layer as evidenced by Butters et al (see col. 3, lines 6-35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to construct the Rantanen rod via providing a thermally sprayed ceramic plating layer on the surface of the rod then blasting an uneven outer peripheral surface on said plating layer for receipt of the release coating as taught by Butters et al as an alternative method of manufacturing

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the rod resulting in better bonding of the coating layer. Also, it was known in the art, at the time the invention was made to provide in a rod holder arrangement, a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and expandable tube therein in order to facilitate a desired sealing engagement of the rod with respect to rod holder while maintaining a clean rod during a coating process as evidenced by Alheid et al (see col. 3, lines 37-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rod holder arrangement as taught by Alheid et al about the rod in the apparatus defined by the combination above in order to maintain a sealed lubricated or cleaned coating rod.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rantanen (US 5,567,479) and Butters et al (US 5,997,456) as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Alheid et al (US 4,245,582).

The teachings of Rantanen and Butters et al have been mentioned above but neither teach or suggest a lubricating rod holder arrangement including a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and an expandable tube or hose in the recess. However, it was known in the art, at the time the invention was made to provide in a rod holder arrangement, a lubricated supporting hole, a constricting recess, and expandable tube therein in order to facilitate a desired sealing engagement of the rod with respect to rod holder while maintaining a clean rod during a coating process as evidenced by Alheid et al (see col. 3, lines 37-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rod holder arrangement as taught by Alheid et.al about the rod in the apparatus defined by the combination above in order to maintain a sealed lubricating/cleaning rod.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura Edwards whose telephone number is (571) 272-1227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Laura Edwards
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1734

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January 3, 2005